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*Counsel for the Plaintiff*

Honorable Ricardo S. Martinez

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON, AT SEATTLE

BRUCE P. KRIEGMAN, solely in his capacity as court-appointed Chapter 11 trustee for LLS America, LLC,

**Plaintiff,**

RONALD PONTON and TOMIKA PONTON,  
Defendants.

Case No. 2:22-CV-00307

**RESPONSE TO MOTION FOR  
TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER**

**ORAL ARGUMENT REQUESTED**

## **I. NATURE OF THE MOTION & RELIEF REQUESTED**

This case arises in the context of a much-publicized Ponzi Scheme that was litigated in connection with LLS America, LLC's Chapter 11 bankruptcy. The core bankruptcy action and various adversary proceedings were litigated before the District and Bankruptcy Courts of the Eastern District of Washington, as well as before the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. One of those adversary proceedings was against Ronald & Tomika Ponton, and that adversary proceeding resulted in the judgment that is at issue in this garnishment proceeding.

**RESPONSE TO MOTION FOR TEMPORARY  
RESTRAINING ORDER: 1**

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1 Ronald Ponton, Sr. and Tomika Ponton were named as defendants in that adversary  
2 proceeding. Ronald Ponton, Sr. and Tomika Ponton appeared and answered. However, Mr. &  
3 Mrs. Ponton did not show up for the scheduled trial, and the Honorable Rosanna Malouf  
4 Peterson of the Eastern District of Washington entered a \$120,670.59 judgment against Ronald  
5 and Tomika Ponton, (hereinafter "the Ponton Judgment"). The Ponton Judgment contains a  
6 scrivener's error; it misidentifies Mr. Ponton as "Ronald Ponton, Jr." The Ponton Judgment  
7 correctly identifies Mrs. Ponton, Mr. Ponton's wife.  
8

9 Once the judgment was domesticated in King County Superior Court, the Trustee had a  
10 writ of garnishment issued for all accounts held by JP Morgan Chase Bank, N.A. (hereinafter  
11 "Chase Bank"). The writ of garnishment at issue was properly served upon Chase Bank as the  
12 garnishee defendant, and Chase Bank properly froze three accounts belonging to Mr. Ponton, in  
13 the total amount of \$58,448.88. It is that \$58,000 garnishment that Mr. & Mrs. Ponton are  
14 asking the Court to enjoin.  
15

16 Contrary to Mr. & Mrs. Ponton's arguments, both the Ponton Judgment and the King  
17 County garnishment are proper and valid – there is, therefore, no likelihood of success on the  
18 merits. Mr. & Mrs. Ponton's effort to use a typo to invalidate a Federal Court judgment is  
19 without legal or factual support – the record clearly shows that Mr. Ponton, Sr. is the judgment  
20 debtor. Mr. & Mrs. Ponton's motion for a temporary restraining order is contrary to  
21 Washington's Garnishment Act. Under the act's plain terms, a judgment creditor may garnish  
22 accounts held by a financial institution without limitation regarding "where" those accounts are  
23 held. That is precisely what the Trustee did in this instance. The garnishment is lawful, valid,  
24 and must be permitted to proceed.  
25  
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28  
RESPONSE TO MOTION FOR TEMPORARY  
RESTRANING ORDER: 2

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1           Perhaps more fundamentally, the Court lacks subject matter jurisdiction to consider Mr.  
 2 & Mrs. Ponton's motion. Diversity is the only possible basis for federal court jurisdiction over  
 3 this matter. However, a garnishment is only removable where it is pursued as a separate action,  
 4 as opposed to as an element of a larger action. There is no dispute that this garnishment was  
 5 brought as a separate action (in King County Superior Court); however, as a separate action, the  
 6 amount in controversy must be determined by the amount of the disputed garnishment, rather  
 7 than by the amount that was in controversy in the underlying action. That is precisely because,  
 8 the underlying judgment is not (and cannot be) at issue in this matter. It is undisputed that  
 9 approximately \$58,000 is at issue in this garnishment action, and that amount is insufficient to  
 10 support federal court jurisdiction.

13           Lastly, even were an injunction appropriate (which it is not), Mr. & Mrs. Ponton are not  
 14 asking that the status quo be preserved; instead, they are asking that the disputed funds be  
 15 unconditionally released. That would not preserve both parties' rights while the garnishment's  
 16 validity could be litigated on its merits. That would render the garnishment moot and futile.  
 17 This is particularly true considering Mr. & Mrs. Ponton's claimed financial condition. Releasing  
 18 the disputed \$58,000 to Mr. & Mrs. Ponton would permanently deprive the Trustee of all rights  
 19 to the funds. Were the Court inclined to grant relief to preserve the status quo between the  
 20 parties, the appropriate relief would be to order the disputed funds paid into the Court's registry  
 21 pending a further order of the Court. Holding the funds in the Court's registry would preserve all  
 22 parties' claims to and rights with respect to the disputed funds and allow the parties' competing  
 23 positions to be resolved on the merits.

26           The Trustee respectfully asks the Court to deny Mr. & Mrs. Ponton's motion for a  
 27 temporary restraining order. Mr. & Mrs. Ponton cannot meet their burden to show any  
 28

1 likelihood of success on the merits. Mr. & Mrs. Ponton cannot meet their burden to show that  
 2 the Court has subject matter jurisdiction. And Mr. & Mrs. Ponton are not seeking relief to  
 3 preserve the status quo. Mr. & Mrs. Ponton cannot meet the heavy burden that they bear at the  
 4 temporary restraining order stage of this litigation.  
 5

## 6 II. FACTUAL BACKGROUND

7 1. The underlying judgment relates to a bankruptcy filed in the Eastern District of  
 8 Washington's Bankruptcy Court (the "Bankruptcy Court"). The debtor, LLS America, LLC and  
 9 related companies ("LLS"), operated a Ponzi scheme that raised over \$137 million and defrauded  
 10 more than 500 "lenders" who invested in LLS' ill-begotten venture of making short-term/payday  
 11 loans. The scheme involved using the money of later "lenders" to repay earlier "lenders." The  
 12 500 defrauded "lenders" ended up holding the empty bag while LLS' founder diverted more than  
 13 \$4.4 million to her personal use and another \$3 million to pay to a select group of friends as  
 14 "commissions." In all, LLS' founder (Doris Nelson), never contributed one cent in capital to  
 15 LLS, but raised more than \$137 million from "lenders" from 1997 through mid-2009 by  
 16 promising exorbitant returns – obviously, LLS had no capability of paying the promised returns.  
 17 Declaration of Shelley N. Ripley (filed herewith), ¶ 2. (hereinafter "Ripley Declaration").  
 18

19 2. On July 16, 2011, the Trustee filed an adversarial action against Mr. and Mrs.  
 20 Ponton to recover over \$120,000 in fraudulent transfers related to their participation in the LLS  
 21 Ponzi scheme. *Id.* at ¶ 3, Exhibit A.

22 3. The Bankruptcy Court had jurisdiction over Mr. & Mrs. Ponton in that adversary  
 23 proceeding because Mr. & Mrs. Ponton had previously voluntarily elected to file a Proof of  
 24 Claim in the LLS bankruptcy. *Id.* at ¶ 4, Exhibit B.  
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1       4.     Contrary to their assertion that they have no connection to the State of  
 2 Washington, Mr. & Mrs. Ponton participated in a Ponzi scheme in the State of Washington.  
 3 They were among a group of "lenders" that profited from the losses of later lenders in the Ponzi  
 4 scheme – this was the underlying basis for the Trustee's successful adversary claim. *Id.* at ¶ 2.  
 5

6       5.     On September 1, 2011, Mr. & Mrs. Ponton filed an answer to the Trustee's  
 7 complaint in the adversary proceeding. Ripley Declaration, ¶ 5, Exhibit C.<sup>1</sup>

8       6.     January 20, 2015 was the date set for trial in the Trustee's adversary proceeding  
 9 against Mr. & Mrs. Ponton; despite making a formal claim in the bankruptcy proceeding and  
 10 despite formally answering the adversary allegations, Mr. & Mrs. Ponton failed to appear for  
 11 trial. *Id.* at ¶ 8.

13       7.     On May 12, 2015, the District Court entered Findings of Facts and Conclusions of  
 14 Law against Mr. & Mrs. Ponton. *Id.* at ¶ 9, Exhibit F. Through those Findings of Fact and  
 15 Conclusions of Law, the District Court concluded that (pursuant to 11 U.S.C. § 548(a), 544, 550  
 16 and 551 and RCW 19.40.041(1) and 19.40.071) the Trustee was entitled to judgment, in the  
 17 amount of \$117,411 plus applicable interest, against "**Ronald Ponton, Sr. and Tomika**  
 18 **Ponton.**" *Id.* at ¶ 10, Exhibit F, p. 22 (emphasis added).

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21  
 22       <sup>1</sup> After Mr. & Mrs. Ponton answered the adversary proceeding, the bankruptcy reference was  
 23 removed and the matter was transferred to U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of  
 24 Washington, before the Honorable Rosanna Malouf Peterson. Ripley Declaration, ¶ 6, Exhibit  
 25 D. Thereafter, Mr. & Mrs. Ponton's adversary pleading was consolidated into District Court  
 26 Case No. 12-CV-668-RMP for purposes of trial. *Id.* at ¶ 7, Exhibit C.  
 27  
 28

1       8. In accord with those findings and conclusions, the District Court entered  
 2 judgment against Mr. & Mrs. Ponton. That judgment was entered on June 16, 2015. *Id.* at ¶ 11,  
 3 Exhibit G.  
 4

5       9. That judgment (and the accompanying judgment summary) contains a  
 6 typographical error by which Mr. Ponton is incorrectly identified as: "Ronald Ponton Jr."<sup>2</sup> *Id.*  
 7

8       10. On January 28, 2022, the Trustee filed a notice of filing foreign judgment in the  
 9 King County Superior Court, under Case No. 22-2-01515-2 SEA. *See* ECF 1, Exhibit A. Mr. &  
 10 Mrs. Ponton were timely served but failed to object. Ripley Declaration, ¶ 12, Exhibit H.  
 11

12       11. On February 10, 2022, the Trustee filed an application for writ of garnishment  
 13 stating "the Judgment Debtors Ronald and Tomika Ponton" were indebted to the Trustee and that  
 14 Chase Bank (the "Garnishee") was indebted to Mr. & Mrs. Ponton "in amounts exceeding those  
 15 exempted from garnishment by any state or federal law." *See* ECF 1, Exhibit B.  
 16

17       12. The King County Superior Court Clerk issued a writ of garnishment against Mr.  
 18 & Mrs. Ponton that was served upon Chase Bank. Ripley Declaration, ¶ 13, Exhibit I.  
 19

20       13. Though Mr. & Mrs. Ponton imply that the Trustee was seeking to garnish funds  
 21 belonging to Ronald Ponton, Jr., the Trustee's communications with Chase Bank identified Mr.  
 22 & Mrs. Ponton by: (i) name; (ii) date of birth; and (iii) social security number judgment. *See*  
 23 ECF 7, Exhibit A, pp. A001-A003.  
 24

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26       2 The Trustee is in the process of requesting the District Court to rectify the error *nunc pro tunc*  
 27 pursuant to FRCP 60(a).  
 28

14. It is notable, that Mr. & Mrs. Ponton do not deny that the dates of birth and social security numbers provided by the Trustee correctly identify them.

15. Pursuant to the writ of garnishment, Chase Bank properly froze three accounts: a sole proprietor account, a checking account and a savings account, all in the name of Ronald Ponton. *See id.* at ¶ 4.

16. The total amount being held by Chase Bank under the writ of garnishment is \$58,448.88. See *id.* at ¶¶ 4-5.

17. Only the funds in deposit in the sole proprietor account are at issue in this case.

### III. ARGUMENT

**A. MR. & MRS. PONTON CANNOT PREVAIL ON THE MERITS BECAUSE THEIR POSITION IS CONTRARY TO WASHINGTON'S GARNISHMENT ACT**

#### *1. The Trustee's judgment is valid.*

Mr. & Mrs. Ponton are not entitled to injunctive relief because they cannot establish that they are likely to prevail on the merits. There is no legitimate dispute that the Trustee holds a valid judgment against Mr. & Mrs. Ponton. The judgment results from a lengthy adversarial action regarding a Ponzi scheme that involved Mr. & Mrs. Ponton. Mr. & Mrs. Ponton participated in the underlying action by filing a Proof of Claim and by answering the Trustee's complaint. Ripley Declaration, ¶ 2-4, Exhibits A & B. Following a trial on the merits, the District Court issued Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, including the following unambiguous determination against Mr. & Mrs. Ponton:

Pursuant to 11 U.S.C. § 548(a), 544, 550 and 551 and RCW 19.40.041(1) and 19.40.071, the Trustee is entitled to and is granted a judgment for the benefit of the Liquidating Trust of Debtor against **Ronald Ponton, Sr. and Tomika Ponton** in the amount of \$117,411.00 USD, plus pre-judgment interest from July 21, 2009, at the applicable federal judgment rate and post-judgment interest at the

1       federal judgment rate from the date of judgment to the date the judgment is paid  
2       in full, see 28 U.S.C. § 1961.

3       *Id.* at Exhibit F, p. 22 (emphasis added).

4       It is true that a typographical error led to the Judgment naming Ronald Ponton, Jr.  
5       The overall course of the adversary litigation, however, makes it undeniable that "Jr."  
6       was nothing beyond a scrivener's error. Nevertheless, the correct judgment debtor was  
7       identified during the garnishment process by last name, date of birth and social security  
8       number. Mr. Ponton's accounts were correctly garnished.

9

10      **2. The King County Superior Court was authorized to issue the writ of garnishment.**

11       Mr. & Mrs. Ponton's motion fundamentally misinterprets Washington's Garnishment Act,  
12       RCW 6.27 *et seq.*<sup>3</sup> Washington's Superior Court Clerks are empowered to issue garnishment  
13       writs returnable to their respective courts for the benefit of a judgment creditor. RCW 6.27.020.  
14       Here, the Trustee holds a judgment that was validly domesticated in the King County Superior  
15       Court. Once domesticated, the prior federal judgment has the same force and effect as a  
16       judgment issued, in the first instance, by the King County Superior Court. RCW 6.36.025(1)  
17       ("The clerk shall treat the foreign judgment in the same manner as a judgment of the superior  
18       court of this state."). The King County Superior Court Clerk was, therefore, fully authorized to  
19       issue the subject writ of garnishment.

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26       <sup>3</sup> Mr. & Mrs. Ponton confuse the terms "garnishee defendant" and "defendant." Chase Bank is  
27       the garnishee defendant, and Mr. & Mrs. are the defendants/judgment debtors.

1       3. **The Trustee's application for the writ of garnishment was proper and accurate.**

2           Contrary to Mr. & Mrs. Ponton's arguments to the contrary, the Trustee's application  
 3 never indicated that Mr. & Mrs. Ponton had property located in the state of Washington nor did  
 4 the application state that Mr. & Mrs. Ponton had bank accounts located in King County,  
 5 Washington. Washington State law is not so limited. Instead, the application, in compliance  
 6 with RCW 6.27.060, stated that Chase Bank has a business address in King County, Washington,  
 7 and that Chase Bank was indebted to Mr. & Mrs. Ponton in amounts exceeding those exempted  
 8 from garnishment by any state or federal law, or that Chase Bank has possession or control of  
 9 personal property or effects belonging to the Defendants which are not exempted from  
 10 garnishment by any state or federal law. Chase Bank irrefutably does business in Seattle,  
 11 Washington (King County) and throughout Washington. And based upon its answer, Chase  
 12 Bank was indebted to Mr. & Mrs. Ponton in amounts exceeding those exempted from  
 13 garnishment. There simply was no misrepresentation.  
 14

15           This garnishment was conducted in full accordance with Washington State law. **Mr. &**  
 16 **Mrs. Ponton true objection is to the fact that Washington's garnishment statute permits**  
 17 **garnishment of accounts without regard to the account-holder's physical location or place**  
 18 **of domicile.** That, however, is a question than can be resolved by the Court.

19       4. **The Trustee garnished the Defendants' Chase Bank deposit accounts, not the**  
 20 **Defendants' property held by Chase Bank.**

21           Mr. & Mrs. Ponton also misread RCW 6.27.080. RCW 6.27.080 allows a judgment  
 22 creditor to name a particular branch of financial institution in a writ of garnishment **or** to name  
 23 the financial institution in a garnishment proceeding. If the financial institution is named, the writ  
 24 of garnishment shall be effective to attach deposits (**wherever located**) and compensation  
 25

1 payable for personal services due the defendant from the financial institution. RCW 6.27.080.  
2 On the other hand, if a writ of garnishment names a single branch as garnishee defendant, then  
3 the writ shall be effective only to attach the deposits, accounts, credits, or other personal property  
4 of the defendant (i.e. property located in a safe deposit box) (excluding compensation payable for  
5 personal services) in the possession or control of that particular branch. RCW 6.27.080.

6 Washington's garnishment act, therefore, empowers a judgment creditor to garnish all accounts  
7 held by a financial institution, regardless of the judgment debtor's location – so long as the  
8 financial institution does business in relevant county.

9 Chase Bank undeniably does business in King County, and the King County Superior  
10 Court undeniably had jurisdiction over Chase Bank. The Trustee, as was its right, issued the  
11 subject writ to Chase Bank the financial institution, rather than any specific branch of Chase  
12 Bank. By naming the financial institution, the writ attached to Mr. & Mrs. Ponton's deposits  
13 without regard to where Mr. & Ponton were located, were domiciled, or from where Mr. & Mrs.  
14 Ponton accessed their Chase Bank accounts.

15 **5. *The Lloyd case is not applicable to this matter.***

16 Mr. & Mrs. Ponton's reliance on a 1936 taxation case is misplaced. See *In Re Lloyd's*  
17 *Est.*, 185 Wn. 61, 65 (1936). The *Lloyd* Court held that the State of Washington was empowered  
18 to levy inheritance tax on bank deposits held in the State of Washington by a decedent whose  
19 domicile was in Canada and whose sole heir resided in Wales. *Lloyd* does not interpret,  
20 construe, or limit the plain language of Washington Garnishment Act.

21 **6. *The similarity of name procedure is not applicable.***

22 Finally, Mr. & Mrs. Ponton's assertion that Chase Bank failed to follow the similarity of  
23 name procedures as outlined in RCW 6.27.290 is unavailing. This matter does not present a

1 dispute regarding similarity of names. Mr. & Mrs. Ponton are the judgment debtors – there is no  
 2 dispute regarding this fact. And the Trustee's writ documentation identified Mr. & Mrs. Ponton  
 3 by: last name, date of birth and social security number. This is not a case of mistaken identity,  
 4 the Trustee had a right to garnish Mr. & Mrs. Ponton's accounts, and the Trustee did so. Chase  
 5 Bank correctly identified Mr. & Mrs. Ponton based upon the identifying information that they  
 6 were provided, and the bank properly garnished Mr. & Mrs. Pontons' accounts. Again, Mr. &  
 7 Mrs. Ponton's true issue is with Washington State law permitting this garnishment.  
 8

9       **B. MR. & MRS. PONTON FACE NO HARM, MUCH LESS IRREPARABLE HARM, IN THE  
 10 ABSENCE OF TEMPORARY RESTRAINT BECAUSE THE WASHINGTON GARNISHMENT  
 11 ACT AFFORDS THEM MULTIPLE AVENUES FOR REDRESS.**

12       To obtain a preliminary injunction, Mr. & Mrs. Ponton are required to establish "that  
 13 irreparable harm is likely, not just possible." *Alliance for the Wild Rockies v. Cottrell*, 632 F.3d  
 14 1127, 1131 (9th Cir. 2011). "Indeed, irreparable harm has been described as '[p]erhaps the single  
 15 most important prerequisite for the issuance of a preliminary injunction.'" *Native Ecosystems  
 16 Council v. U.S. Forest Service*, 2011 WL 4015662, at \*7 (D. Idaho Sept. 9, 2011) (quoting 11A  
 17 Wright & Miller, Fed. Prac. & Proc. § 2948). Mr. & Mrs. Ponton must demonstrate irreparable  
 18 harm through a "clear showing" of "substantial proof." *Id.*  
 19

20       Mr. & Mrs. Ponton assert that they will suffer monetarily if the restraining order is not  
 21 granted. Monetary damages do not constitute "irreparable harm" justifying an equitable remedy.  
 22 See *Stormans, Inc. v. Selecky*, 586 F.3d 1109, 1138 n.16 (9th Cir. 2009) (holding that if the  
 23 injury was primarily financial, the balance would not tip because the injury would not be  
 24 considered irreparable).

25       Perhaps more importantly, Washington's garnishment act contains express remedies that  
 26 Mr. & Mrs. Ponton have chose to ignore. First, they could have claimed exemptions under RCW  
 27

1 6.27.160. They failed to do so. Second, they could have controverted Chase Bank's answer,  
 2 pursuant to RCW 6.27.210. Again, they failed to do. Finally, they could have requested the Court  
 3 to quash the writ of garnishment. They did not. Mr. & Mrs. Ponton should not be permitted to  
 4 ignore the express statutory remedies that were available to them. Mr. & Mrs. Ponton's motion  
 5 for a temporary restraining order should be denied.  
 6

7 **C. THE COURT IS WITHOUT JURISDICTION TO CONSIDER MR. & MRS. PONTON'S  
 8 MOTION.**

9 The Court has an obligation to examine subject matter jurisdiction before deciding any  
 10 issue on the merits. *Valdez v. Allstate Ins. Co.*, 372 F.3d 1115, 1116 (9th Cir. 2004). Mr. & Mrs.  
 11 Ponton's Notice of Removal is inadequate and does not properly invoke federal jurisdiction. In  
 12 the interest of brevity and to avoid duplication, the Trustee respectfully incorporates the  
 13 arguments and authorities contained in its Motion for Remand, which is filed contemporaneously  
 14 herewith.

16 **D. MR. & MRS. PONTON'S MOTION SEEKS TO UPSET, RATHER THAN PRESERVE, THE  
 17 STATUS QUO.**

18 "The purpose of a temporary restraining order is to preserve an existing situation *in statu*  
 19 *quo* until the court has an opportunity to pass upon the merits of the demand for a preliminary  
 20 injunction.' " *Garcia v. Yonkers Sch. Dist.*, 561 F.3d 97, 107 (2d Cir. 2009) (*quoting Pan Am.*  
 21 *World Airways, Inc. v. Flight Eng'rs' Int'l Ass'n, PAA Chapter*, 306 F.2d 840, 842-43 (2d Cir.  
 22 1962)); *see also Procter & Gamble Co. v. Bankers Tr. Co.*, 78 F.3d 219, 226 (6th Cir. 1996)  
 23 ("[T]he purpose of a TRO under Rule 65 is to preserve the status quo so that a reasoned  
 24 resolution of a dispute may be had."); *Bronco Wine Co. v. U.S. Dep't of Treasury*, 997 F. Supp.  
 25 1309, 1313 (E.D. Cal. 1996) ("The purpose of a TRO is to preserve the status quo pending a full  
 26 27  
 28

1 hearing on a preliminary injunction."). The Court must, therefore, focus the analysis on whether  
 2 the status quo would materially change before a preliminary injunction could be heard.

3 It is precisely because a Temporary Restraining Order exists solely to preserve the *status*  
 4 *quo* until the parties can be heard on the merits that FRCP 65 requires the Court to condition  
 5 relief upon appropriate security. No temporary restraining order can issue without the moving  
 6 party posting adequate security to protect the party who is restrained against any damage that  
 7 would be caused by the restraint. FRCP 65.

8 Mr. & Mrs. Ponton are not asking that the *status quo* be preserved. Instead, Mr. & Mrs.  
 9 Ponton are asking the Court to release the disputed \$58,000 to them, without any countervailing  
 10 security. This is especially concerning given the fact that Mr. & Mrs. Ponton's moving papers go  
 11 to some length to describe the direness of their financial condition. Mr. & Mrs. Ponton are  
 12 essentially asking the Court to give them full and final relief through a temporary restraining  
 13 order.

14 Even accepting every allegation made by Mr. & Mrs. Ponton as true there is, at a  
 15 maximum, a dispute regarding whether they or the Trustee is entitled to the disputed \$58,000.  
 16 Preserving the *status quo*, therefore, would entail preserving the funds pending resolution of the  
 17 parties' competing claims to the money. To prevent the Trustee from exercising its rights under  
 18 the Washington State Garnishment Act, Mr. & Mrs. Ponton should be made to post security in an  
 19 amount equal to \$58,000, plus all interest that will accrue during the parties' litigation, and plus  
 20 all costs and legal fees that the Trustee is likely to incur in this matter.

21 A simpler option exists – the Court could simply hold the \$58,000 in the registry of the  
 22 Court pending resolution of the parties' dispute. That would preserve the *status quo*. That would  
 23 preserve all parties' rights. And, if the Court believes that any relief is appropriate, that would be

1 the most efficient and equitable way to resolve the issue. Thus, if the Court is disinclined to  
2 dismiss Mr. & Mrs. Ponton's action, the Trustee respectfully asks the Court to hold the disputed  
3 funds in the Court registry pending a resolution of the parties' dispute.  
4

#### 5 IV. CONCLUSION

6 Mr. & Mrs. Ponton are asking the Court to deny the Trustee the benefits of a valid  
7 garnishment under a valid order. Mr. & Mrs. Ponton are asking the Court to do so in direct  
8 opposition to the unambiguous provisions of Washington's Garnishment Act. Mr. & Mrs.  
9 Ponton are asking the Court to do so despite their wholesale failure to invoke any of the varied  
10 remedies made available to them by Washington's Garnishment Act. And Mr. & Mrs. Ponton  
11 are asking the Court to do so despite a plain lack of subject matter jurisdiction. The Trustee,  
12 therefore, respectfully asks the Court to deny Mr. & Mrs. Ponton's motion for a temporary  
13 restraining order.

14  
15 Respectfully submitted this 21st day of March, 2022.

16  
17 WITHERSPOON • KELLEY

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22 *Counsel for the Plaintiff*

## **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that on the 21st day of March, 2022:

1. I electronically filed the foregoing with the Clerk of the Court using the CM/ECF System, which will send notification of such filing to the following:

Elizabeth Hebener Norwood at elizabeth@gnlawseattle.com  
*Counsel for the Plaintiff*

Matthew Green at matt@gnlawseattle.com  
*Counsel for the Plaintiff*

Christina Latta Henry at chenry@hdm-legal.com  
*Counsel for the Defendants*

Venus Yvette Springs at [vsprings@springslawfirm.com](mailto:vsprings@springslawfirm.com)  
*Counsel for the Defendants*

2. I caused to be mailed by United States Postal Service the document to the following at the address listed below:

NONE

## **WITHERSPOON KELLEY**

s/ Matthew W. Daley  
MATTHEW W. DALEY, WSBA # 36711  
Email: [mwd@witherspoonkelley.com](mailto:mwd@witherspoonkelley.com)